

NEWS IN BRIEF

From the Fairfax County Department of Housing
and Community Development (HCD)

January 28, 2003



- **HOMEOWNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM PROVES SUCCESS.** Several participants of HCD's pilot Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Homeownership Program became first-time homeowners in the program's first year. Eight families who received rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program purchased homes and two obtained contracts. In the program's current phase, three families are purchasing townhouses from Habitat for Humanity on Stevenson Street in the Springfield District while two additional families search for a home. Participants of the program are required to complete six hours of homeownership training, demonstrate their ability to obtain mortgage pre-qualifications and provide up to three percent of the cost of purchasing their home from their own financial resources. Fannie Mae has been instrumental in making the program a success by creating a special loan product called Flex 97 for use by lenders providing mortgages when Housing Choice Voucher assistance is part of the mortgage payment. The Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program, another Fairfax County program, assists with closing costs.
- **HUD AWARDS NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORKS PROGRAM GRANT.** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded HCD a \$250,000 Neighborhood Networks Program Grant. In a partnership with the Fairfax Area Christian Emergency and Transitional Services, Inc (FACETS), HCD will use the grant's proceeds to develop and implement a computer learning center at the Ragan Oaks public housing development and provide additional funding assistance to existing computer learning centers at the Barros Circle and Robinson Square public housing developments. The grant allows HCD to rehabilitate and transform a storage space at Ragan Oaks into a new computer learning center and implement a computer training program for residents.
- **HCD AND FAMILY SERVICES AWARD CHILDCARE PROVIDER PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS EQUIPMENT.** In January, HCD and the Office of Children of the Department of Family Services began awarding participants of the Pathways Project, a new childcare grant program, equipment and other essentials —highchairs and cribs— needed to run a childcare business. The program, which was approved and allocated \$50,000 by the Board of Supervisors, seeks to increase the number of childcare providers and enhance existing childcare services in the county. More than 95 individuals have taken part in the program since it began last April. The program specializes in special needs and non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends) childcare. It is a joint effort between HCD and the Office of Children.
- **PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON PUBLIC HOUSING AND HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAMS ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE FOR FY 2004.** A public hearing will be held by the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Board of Supervisors on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the FCRHA's Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs Annual Plan Update for FY 2004. Through this plan, the FCRHA will advise HUD, residents of FCRHA housing, and the public of the FCRHA's mission to serve the needs of low-income and very low-income families for public housing and Housing Choice Voucher assistance, and the FCRHA's strategy to address those needs.

Calendar Notes

- **Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m.,** Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board meeting, Conference Rooms 2 and 3 of the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.
- **Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7:00 p.m.,** Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) meeting, FCRHA Board Room, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax.